



By the King.

A Proclamation for better furnishing the Nauy,
and Shipping of the Realme, with able and
skilfull Mariners.



Hereas the most Excellent, High and Mighty Prince, King *James*, of most noble and blessed memorie. Our most deare and royall Father, out of his princely and prouident care of the safety and honour of his Kingdomes and people, and for the continuance and maintaining of the Nauigation of this Realme, and to the intent that skilfull Mariners, and Sea-faring men might be alwaies in readinesse, to furnish, as well his owne Royall Naue, as the Shipping of his leuing subiects, did by Proclamation, dated the sixth day of August, in the twentieth yeere of his Raigue, straitly inhibite and forbid, That no Mariner, or Sea faring man, Ship Wright, or Ship-carpenter Whatsoever, beeing his subiect, should, without expresse licence of himselfe, or his Admirall of England, enter or attempt, or goe about to enter into the seruice of any forraigne Prince, or State, or be employed out of this Realme, in any seruice whatsoever, vnlesse it were in the seruice of the said late King, Our most deare Father, or of some of his liege subiects: And did afterwards by a later Proclamation, dated the seuen and twentieth day of February then following, further straitly charge and command, That no Mariner, or Sea faring man should absent, hide, or withdraw himselfe from his late Maiesties seruice or prests, and that all such persons hauing prest-money given, or tendered vnto them, should duetifully, and reuerently receiue the same, and repaire aboard the ships appointed, and continue in that seruice, as to the duty of good subiects appertained, and not withdraw themselves, or depart there from, without speciall licence: And did lately by another Proclamation, bearing date the twentieth day of this instant moneth of March, likewise straitly inhibite and forbid, That no Owner or Master of any ship or vessell, nor any other, setting forth any vessells of Trade, fishing, or otherwise, should hire, or entertaine any Mariner, or Sea-faring man, knowing him to haue offended against either of the said Proclamations: and if such Owner, or other person not knowing of the said offences, should hire or entertaine any such offender or offenders, did will and command, That forthwith, vpon notice of any the sayd offences, they should deliuer such offenders ouer vnto the next Justice of Peace, Maior, Bailiffe, Constable, or other Officer, to be imprisoned, vntill the sayd offenders should giue sufficient bond and caution, for their forth-coming and appearance, in such Court, or place of Justice, vnto which it might appertaine, to haue them proceeded against and punished, according to their demerits, and withall, that the sayd Masters, Owners, and other persons, should forbear to pay to the sayd offenders any wages.

And did further thereby straitly charge and command all Lieutenants, Deputy-Lieutenants, Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bayliffes, Constables, Customers, Comptrollers, searchers, and officers, as well of the Admiralty, as of the Ports, and also all and every person and persons, to whom any Commission, Deputation, or Letters of Assistance should be directed, for the pressing of Mariners, and Seafaring men for publique service, that they should from time to time vse all possible diligence, and indeavour, to apprehend, and cause to bee apprehended, as well all such Mariners and Seafaring men, offending, as aforesaid, as also all such Owners, Masters, and others, as should entertaine or hire them, or pay them any wages, or otherwise helpe them to escape the hands of Justice; and such as they should apprehend, they should, with Certificate of their names and offences, binde ouer to appeare before the Commissioners of His Maiesties Nauie, in London, to be by them committed, and deliuered ouer to the ordinary course of Justice, either in the Court of Starre-chamber, or of the Admiralty, or otherwise, as the quality of the offence should require, with speciall charge and commandement to all Iust masters, and their Assistants, that they should publish the names of all such, as should bee pressed by them in the Ports where they should be taken, as also deliuer a note of their names to the officers of the Ports, and others who were fittest to discouer them, if they should faile in the performance of their duties, As in and by the said seuerall Proclamations more at large appeareth.

Now We, hauing taken the premisses into Our Princely consideration, and aduised seriously thereof with Our Priuy Councell, finding how necessary it is, both for the safety and honour of this Our Kingdome and State, That all the seuerall Proclamations before mentioned should bee put in due execution, for preventing and suppressing the manifold abuses, contempts, and neglects heretofore committed in seruices of so weighty consequence; Doe hereby straitly charge and command, that all the said Proclamations, and every branch and article therein contained, bee continued at all times hereafter, and be from time to time hereafter carefully obserued, and put in exact execution, as fully, and effectually, as the same should, or might haue bene in the life time of Our said deare Father, vpon the paines and penalties specified in the said Proclamations, and such further punishments, as by Our Lawes or Prerogative Royall may be inflicted vpon the offenders:

Letting all Our louing Subiects hereby know, That, as Our said most deare and Royal Father, in the publishing of the last of the said Proclamations, had a gracious eye vnto the special service then intended, and to be now shortly performed; So We rest assured, that none of Our said Subiects in the aduancement thereof (so much concerning the safety of Our Kingdomes and Our Imperiall Crowne and Dignity) wilbe wanting to doe their bittermost in making Vs such a supply, as may giue testimony of their extraordinary care, faithfulness, and dutifull affection towards Vs, who had much rather haue cause to expresse Our gracious acceptance thereof at their hands, then be enforced to any other course, which the necessity and importance of Our seruice will otherwise require.

Giuen at Our Court at Saint Iames, the one and thirtieth day of March, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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